Rome Sat Dec 8th
1860

My dear Maria

Yesty on my birth day I sent you to
from the 1st half £5 note No. $\frac{M}{H}$ 17524 & I
hope & trust you will get both safe & also
that soon I may have another for you
This was paid to my daughter for things
she had been buying -

You'll all be in a good deal of concern
about us as on the 11th inst the last french troops
leave & the Pope will be left face to face with
his people - yet up to this there does not seem
to be the least step forward either on one
side or the other for conciliation, nothing
but the most intolerable antagonism exists

I am applied to for protection by the
Irish Monks & Priests & indeed I have
authority from the F. O. to give it, but
there seems to be no cause of fear, but if the
people & the govt by some mischance get
to blows then I have not a doubt that
I should be able to act as mediator, for I

have the respect of both parties, but it may be a trying moment — The good of my having the Florence Palace with be that I shall be rent free (£80) but I fear it may bring me much ill will & malice tho I shall be able to snap my fingers at all the snarlers — you would be surprised considering the amount of good offices I am daily doing & the delight I take in these matters; how many malignant enemies I have got — but as these no occasion to go out of my way to court any so I take no notice of them —

I hope this may find you better than I do for I have rheumatism all over me, & a dreadful cold on my chest

Tuesday mor. Sunday Dec.9 at 6. A.M. my daughter sets off for Walters wedding in Scotland who will have the twins — the Bride is Miss Mary Dalrymple Ferguson so you see I shall have the happiness to have another daughter Mary — but O!! what a loss was there I have never recovered the blow, & if it had not been the influence daily occupation I should have sunk under it — the active life suits me & I like hope to pick up in the inspiration of the Ambassadors Palace as a rent free house

Do write a line & I shall be so pleased

Your loving brother Joe